



Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

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Native succulents flora of Aruba

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ARUBA TODAY

Saturday
September 23, 2023

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Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

Auto workers expand their strike to 38 locations in 20 states

By DAVID KOENIG AP
Business Writer

The United Auto Workers union expanded its strike against major carmakers Friday, walking out of 38 parts-distribution centers operated by General Motors and Jeep and Ram owner Stellantis in 20 states but sparing Ford from further shutdowns.

President Joe Biden will go to Michigan on Tuesday to support the union, according to a person familiar with his plans. The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the visit had not been announced publicly, gave no further details about the trip.

Ford avoided additional strikes because the company has met some of the union's demands during negotiations over the past week, UAW President Shawn Fain said during an online presentation to union members.



Continued on Page 2 United Auto Workers members and supporters picket outside a General Motors facility in Langhorne, Pa., Friday, Sept. 22, 2023. Associated Press

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SINGER
6:30pm - 8:30pm

THURSDAY

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6:30pm - 8:30pm

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Auto workers expand their strike to 38 locations in 20 states

Continued from Front

“We’ve made some real progress at Ford,” Fain said. “We still have serious issues to work through, but we do want to recognize that Ford is showing that they are serious about reaching a deal. At GM and Stellantis, it’s a different story.” Fain said GM and Stellantis, the successor to Fiat Chrysler, have rejected the union’s proposals for cost-of-living increases, profit sharing and job security, and “are going to need some serious pushing.”

GM said it has presented five “historic” offers covering wages and job security. “Today’s strike escalation by the UAW’s top leadership is unnecessary,” the company said in a statement. “The UAW leadership is manipulating the bargaining process for their own personal agendas.”

Stellantis said it made “a very competitive offer” Thursday that would pay all current full-time hourly employees between \$80,000 and \$96,000 within four years and seven months and allow “workforce stability” during that time. The company said the UAW has not responded.

Instead of targeting more production plants Friday, the UAW went after centers that distribute parts to car dealer service departments. That could quickly drag consumers into the middle of the fight, if dealers run short of parts.

The UAW said the new walkouts will affect 5,600 workers on top of the nearly 13,000 who began strikes last week at three Ford, GM and Stellantis assembly plants. Those original strikes will continue, the union said.

The UAW is continuing to avoid targeting plants that make Detroit’s bestsellers, such as the Ford F-150 and Stellantis’ Ram pickups, which represent outside shares of the companies’ revenue and profit. That represents a union strategy to gradually increase the pain of a strike on the automakers. However, the industry’s supply chain is so



Tom Gregory holds a sign outside of the Chrysler entrance as he and other United Auto Workers strike outside of the Stellantis Toledo Assembly Complex in Toledo, Ohio on Friday, Sept. 22, 2023. Associated Press

integrated that even hitting lower-profile plants cuts into production.

Deutsche Bank analysts estimated Friday that GM, Ford and Stellantis have lost production of more than 16,000 vehicles since the strike started last week at a Ford assembly plant near Detroit, a GM factory in Wentzville, Missouri, and a Jeep plant run by Stellantis in Toledo, Ohio. Anderson Economic Group, a consulting firm in Michigan that tracks the industry, estimated Friday that the three big automakers have suffered economic losses of more than \$1.6 billion.

The carmakers and some of their suppliers have laid off about 6,000 workers in moves they say are related to the strike. GM shut down a factory in Kansas that relies on parts stamped at the Wentzville plant.

Still, the impact is not yet being felt on car lots around the country — it will probably take a few weeks

before the strike causes a significant shortage of new vehicles, according to analysts. Prices could rise sooner, however, if the prospect of a prolonged strike triggers panic buying. In bargaining, the union is pointing to the carmakers’ huge recent profits and high CEO pay as it seeks wage increases of about 36% over four years. The companies have offered a little over half that amount. “We aren’t getting paid what we are supposed to. I feel like our CEO is getting all our money,” said Antione Turner, who walked off his job Friday at a GM customer-care center in Belleville, Michigan.

Turner said after working there 10 years, he makes \$31 an hour. On the same picket line, Shelton Matthews, who started at GM three years ago, makes \$20 an hour because the company’s tiered wage structure mean lower pay for new workers.

“Pay disparity is the key issue” in the strike, Matthews said. “You’re doing, if not harder work, the same work as the person next to you with significantly less pay.” The companies say they can’t afford to meet the union’s demands because they need to invest profits in a costly transition from gas-powered cars to electric vehicles. They have dismissed out of hand some of the demands, including 40 hours’ pay for a 32-hour work week.

Fain said that Ford has agreed to some union proposals, including the restoration of cost-of-living wage increases that were dropped several years ago, better profit-sharing and improved job security. A Ford spokesman, Daniel Barbossa, said the company “is working diligently with the UAW to reach a deal that rewards our workforce and enables Ford to invest in a vibrant and growing future.”

“Although we are making progress in some areas, we still have significant gaps to close on the key economic issues,” he said.

Rather than bargain with one company and set a pattern for contracts at the other two, the UAW has been negotiating simultaneously with all three Detroit giants. By favoring Ford after a week of talks, the UAW moved closer to its traditional bargaining pattern: getting the best deal it can from one company, then expecting the others to match it.

Fain had promised all week to escalate the strike if there wasn’t significant progress in negotiations. Targeting the parts-distributions centers could inflict quick pain on GM and Stellantis, said Daniel Ives, an analyst with Wedbush Securities.

“The UAW is going for the gut punch as this strike gets a lot nastier,” Ives said. He called it “a very strategic and risky poker move by the UAW.”

Other industry observers said that dragging current owners of GM and Stellantis vehicles into the fray will backfire on the union.

“People who have a car that they need to repair will not be sympathetic to the UAW when they can’t get the car fixed and can’t get to work,” said Eric Gordon, a business professor at the University of Michigan.

Even with Friday’s expansion, the strikes involve only a little over 10% of the UAW’s 146,000 members. That will make the union’s \$825 million strike fund last longer, as most members will keep working under the expired contract and pay into the fund. However, the longer the strike lasts, the greater the risk of dissonance between workers who will keep collecting full paychecks and those getting \$500 a week from the union.

Fain believes that most of the public is on the union’s side. He invited anyone who supports the union — “all the way up to the president of the United States” — to join strikers on the picket lines. □

Hollywood actor and writer strikes have broad support among Americans, AP-NORC poll shows

By **ANDREW DALTON** and **LINLEY SANDERS**

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Public support for striking Hollywood actors and writers is broad, but not necessarily deep enough for most people to change their viewing habits, a new poll finds.

A majority (55%) of U.S. adults sympathize with the writers and actors in the months-long dispute than with the studios they're striking against (3%), the poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows.

Half of Americans (50%) approve of writers and actors striking, while 40% are neutral on the topic, and 9% disapprove.

The more people said they had heard about the strike, the more likely they were to favor it. About six in 10 Americans have heard "a lot" or "some" about the labor strikes of writers and actors against Hollywood studios. People who have heard "a lot" or "some" about the strike are more likely than those who have heard less to approve (63% vs. 29%).



Demonstrators hold signs during a rally outside the Paramount Pictures Studio in Los Angeles, Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023. Negotiations

Associated Press

"I'm a big supporter of labor," said one respondent, James Denton of Louisville, Kentucky, who said he strongly approves of the strikes and has followed them closely. "I'm a union member myself, my father was the president of a union, I believe in unions, they're well worth the money." About a quarter (24%)

of U.S. adults do not sympathize with either the writers and actors or the studios, and 18% are split between the sides. Overall sympathy toward the writers and actors runs much more strongly among Democrats (70%), than Independents (47%) and Republicans (39%). Republicans (35%) are more likely than Democrats (15%)

to say they sympathize with neither side.

When the questions move beyond approval toward potential actions favoring the strike, the support gets considerably softer.

One-third would consider boycotting TV shows, while even more (41%) would not. Slightly fewer (27%) said they would consider can-

celing streaming services, while 44% said they would not. Three in 10 Americans also said they would consider boycotting movie theaters, while 34% would not. The unions have yet to ask for any of these moves from consumers, though have said they might if the stand-offs last long enough.

Denton, 77, said he would not consider such moves, but added that it wouldn't matter much.

"I don't watch anything anyway," he said. "I don't go to movies anymore."

The poll was conducted September 7-11, as the Hollywood protests over pay and work protections stretched into their fifth month for writers and third month for actors. The Writers Guild of America has restarted negotiations with the alliance of studios and streaming services they're striking against. The Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Radio and Television Artists are waiting in the wings.

While actors are usually the ones getting public adulation, many more think writers deserve a pay bump than they do actors. □

3rd Republican presidential debate is set for Nov. 8 in Miami, with the strictest qualifications yet

By **MEG KINNARD**

Associated Press

The third Republican presidential debate will be held in Miami on Nov. 8, a day after several states hold off-year elections, and candidates will be facing the most stringent requirements yet to take part.

Participating candidates must secure 4% of the vote in multiple polls and 70,000 unique donors to earn a spot on the stage, the Republican National Committee said Friday. Party officials did not immediately respond to inquiries about who would moderate the debate.

Details of the gathering

come as the broad GOP field prepares for a second primary debate without their current front-runner. Former President Donald Trump, who also skipped the first debate last month, plans to meet with current and former union workers in Michigan instead of participating in the Sept. 27 debate at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California.

The requirements for the third debate will be more challenging to meet than the second. For the second debate, candidates need at least 3% in two national polls or 3% in one national poll as well as two

polls from four of the early-voting states: Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina, according to the RNC. The White House hopefuls must also have at least 50,000 unique donors.

The GOP hasn't confirmed the qualified participants for Wednesday's debate, but several campaigns have said they've satisfied the marks, including former Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, Sen. Tim Scott, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy and former Vice President Mike Pence. □



Republican presidential candidates, from left, former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, former Vice President Mike Pence, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, businessman Vivek Ramaswamy, former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., and North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum stand on stage before a Republican presidential primary debate hosted by FOX News Channel Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

A 9/11 defendant is ruled unfit for trial after a medical panel finds torture left him psychotic

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A military judge at Guantanamo Bay has ruled one of the 9/11 defendants unfit for trial after a military medical panel found that the man's sustained abuse in CIA custody years earlier has rendered him lastingly psychotic. The judge, Col. Matthew McCall, said the incompetency finding for Ramzi bin al-Shibh meant the prosecution of his four co-defendants would continue without him. Al-Shibh remains in custody.

McCall issued his ruling late Thursday. Pre-trial hearings for the remaining defendants resumed Friday in the military courtroom at the U.S. naval base on Cuba. No trial date has been set for the case, which has been slowed by logistical problems, high turnover and legal challenges.

A Yemeni, al-Shibh is accused of organizing one cell of the 19 hijackers who commandeered four commercial airplanes to carry out the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, which killed nearly 3,000 people outright in New York, Washington and



In this April 17, 2019, photo, reviewed by U.S. military officials, the control tower is seen through the razor wire inside the Camp VI detention facility in Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba.

Associated Press

Pennsylvania. The attacks were the deadliest of their kind on U.S. soil.

The attacks, and the American response to them, altered the course of history. They led the George W. Bush administration to take extraordinary steps in what it called a war on terror: invading Afghanistan and Iraq, setting up an extraordinary program of CIA interrogation and detention, and creating the special

prison and military commission for suspected violent extremists at Guantanamo. A military medical panel last month diagnosed al-Shibh as having post-traumatic stress disorder with secondary psychosis, and linked it to his torture and solitary confinement during his four years in CIA custody immediately after his 2002 arrest. Al-Shibh has complained for years since his transfer to the U.S. na-

val base at Guantanamo Bay that his guards were attacking him, including by invisible rays, so as to deprive him of sleep and cause him pain. McCall's ruling noted that psychological reports dating back at least to 2004 had documented al-Shibh's mental issues.

Defense attorney David Bruck told McCall in a hearing Tuesday that al-Shibh's overwhelming focus on

trying to stop the invisible attacks, and his insistence that his defense lawyers do the same, rendered him incapable of meaningfully taking part in his defense. Bruck pointed to what he said was al-Shibh's solitary confinement over four years in detention at CIA black sites, and torture that included his being forced to stand sleepless for as long as three days at a time, naked except for a diaper and doused with cold water in air-conditioned rooms, for the man's lasting belief that his American guards were still conspiring to deprive him of sleep.

Bruck indicated in Tuesday's hearing that al-Shibh would be expected to remain in custody while court officials waited for him to become mentally competent again, if that ever happens. Defense attorneys and a U.N.-appointed investigator have argued that the five 9/11 co-defendants should be given physical and psychological care for the lasting effects of the torture they underwent while in CIA custody under the Bush administration. □

Authorities search for suspect wanted in killing who was mistakenly released from Indianapolis jail

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A man wanted for a 2021 killing in Minnesota was mistakenly released from jail in Indianapolis last week and authorities are now offering a reward of up to \$10,000 as they continue searching for him.

Kevin Mason, 28, was arrested in Indianapolis on Sept. 11 but a preliminary review found he was released Sept. 13 due to a faulty records review by clerks with the Marion County Sheriff's Office, officials said.

On Thursday, the sheriff's office announced that the U.S. Marshals Office was offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to Mason's arrest.

"We will not stop and we will not sleep until he is back in custody," Col. James Martin with the sheriff's office



In this image taken from WRTV video, Marion County Sheriff's Department's Col. James Martin discusses details about a mistakenly released man from jail during a press conference, Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Associated Press

said during Thursday's news conference.

Officials said more than 300 officers from local departments and the U.S. Marshals Service took part in manhunt overnight Wednesday in Indianapolis and other jurisdictions for Mason, The Indianapolis Star reported. Officials waited six days before informing the public of Mason's mistaken release. Martin said Thursday that police used that time as a "tactical advantage" to keep him from running underground.

A reward poster released by the U.S. Marshals Service says Mason may be in Indianapolis or the Minneapolis area.

He remained at large Friday morning, said Allison Marshall, a spokesperson for the sheriff's office.

The sheriff's office said later Friday its investigation has determined Mason left Indianapolis on the evening of Sept. 13 and said the U.S. Marshals Service was now overseeing the search for him.

Authorities have been in contact with "law enforcement agencies of areas where Mason is believed to have connections," the sheriff's office said without elaborating. The agency also repeated its request for the public to provide any tips about Mason's whereabouts to investigators. □

A Ukrainian missile strikes the headquarters of Russia's navy in Crimea

By **SAMYA KULLAB** and **DA-SHA LITVINOVA**

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) —

Ukraine struck the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet in a missile attack Friday that left a serviceman missing and the main building smoldering, according to military officials on both sides of the war and images from the scene in Crimea.

The Russian Defense Ministry initially said one servicemember was killed but then issued a statement saying he was missing following the attack in the port city of Sevastopol.

The Crimean Peninsula, which Russia illegally annexed from Ukraine in 2014, has been a frequent target since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a full-scale invasion of Ukraine almost 19 months ago.

Crimea has served as the key hub supporting Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Sevastopol, the main base of Russia's Black Sea Fleet since the 19th century, has had a particular importance for navy operations



This image taken from UGC video shows smoke rising from the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol, Crimea, Friday Sept. 22, 2023.

since the start of the invasion of Ukraine.

Ukraine has increasingly targeted naval facilities in Crimea in recent weeks while the brunt of its summer counteroffensive makes slow gains in the east and south of Ukraine, the Institute for the Study of War said Thursday. Military experts say it is essential for Ukraine to keep up its at-

tacks on targets in Crimea to degrade Russian morale and weaken its military.

The attack came a day after Russia pounded cities across Ukraine with missiles and artillery strikes, killing at least five people as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with U.S. President Joe Biden and congressional leaders in Washington while a \$24 billion aid pack-

age is under consideration. Zelenskyy was in Canada on Friday to address its Parliament in his ongoing effort to bolster support from Western allies.

Previous attacks in Crimea resulted in several civilian deaths, but Russian officials haven't yet reported any military personnel killed. Six people were reported wounded following a July

2022 attack on the fleet's headquarters, but it wasn't clear whether they were civilians or servicemembers.

The Russian-installed governor of Sevastopol, Mikhail Razvozhayev, said no one was injured Friday outside of the burning headquarters building.

The Ukrainian military claimed responsibility for the attack.

"We promised that 'there will be more,'" Lt. Gen. Mykola Oleschuk, the air force commander, said in a social media post that thanked pilots and showed video of air sirens blazing and smoke rising from the building.

The Russian Defense Ministry said five missiles were shot down by Russian air defense systems responding to the attack on Sevastopol. It was not immediately clear if the headquarters was hit in a direct strike or by debris from an intercepted missile.

Sevastopol residents said they heard explosions and saw smoke, Russian news outlets reported, and images showed gray plumes over the seafront. □

Associated Press

U.S. ambassador to Japan calls Chinese ban on Japanese seafood 'economic coercion'

By **MARI YAMAGUCHI** Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) —

U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel accused China on Friday of using "economic coercion" against Japan by banning imports of Japanese seafood in response to the release of treated wastewater from the damaged Fukushima nuclear plant into the ocean, while Chinese boats continue to fish off Japan's coasts.

"Economic coercion is the most persistent and pernicious tool in their economic toolbox," Emanuel said in a speech Friday in Tokyo, calling China's ban on Japanese seafood the lat-

est example.

China is the biggest market for Japanese seafood, and the ban has badly hurt Japan's fishing industry.

"China is engaged right now in fishing in Japan's economic waters while they are simultaneously engaged in the unilateral embargo on Japan's fish," Emanuel said. He said China's intention is to isolate Japan.

Japan began gradually releasing treated wastewater from the crippled Fukushima plant into the sea on Aug. 24. The water has accumulated at the plant since it was crippled by a massive earthquake and

tsunami in 2011. China immediately banned imports of Japanese seafood, accusing Tokyo of dumping "radiation contaminated

water" into the ocean.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has said the release, if carried out as planned, will have a negli-

gible impact on the environment, marine life and human health.

Emanuel posted four photos on X, formerly called Twitter, on Friday that he said showed "Chinese vessels fishing off Japan's coast on Sept. 15, post China's seafood embargo from the same waters. #Fukushima." Emanuel has also posted other comments about China that have been interpreted as critical, including one on Sept. 15 about Chinese Defense Minister Li Shangfu, who has not appeared in public for weeks, speculating he might have been placed under house arrest. □



U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel speaks to the media in Tokyo Friday, Sept. 22, 2023.

Associated Press

Russia says Armenian separatists surrender arms after Azerbaijan reclaims Nagorno-Karabakh

By AVET DEMOURIAN

Associated Press

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) — Ethnic Armenian separatists in Azerbaijan's region of Nagorno-Karabakh surrendered arms Friday to Russian peacekeepers, Russia's Defense Ministry said, two days after Azerbaijan reclaimed control of the breakaway region that has long been at the center of a conflict with neighboring Armenia.

The ethnic Armenian armed groups handed over six armored vehicles, more than 800 small arms units and 5,000 rounds of ammunition to the peacekeepers, the ministry said in a statement. Azerbaijan on Tuesday launched a major military operation against Armenian positions in what it called an "anti-terrorist operation," demanding that the Armenians lay down arms and that the separatist government disband. A day later, Nagorno-Karabakh authorities agreed to the military demands, but talks on how to reintegrate the region into Azerbaijan are continuing.

The Russian Defense Ministry said it recorded two ceasefire violations in the



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan leads a cabinet meeting in Yerevan, Armenia, Friday, Sept. 22, 2023.

region Friday but said there were no casualties and that it was conducting an investigation in cooperation with Azerbaijan and representatives from Nagorno-Karabakh.

Russia has been a key partner of Armenia since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 but ties between the two have become strained recently as Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has

criticized Russia's failure to protect Nagorno-Karabakh and argued that Armenia needs to turn to the West to ensure its security. Moscow, in turn, has expressed dismay about Pashinyan's pro-Western tilt.

Earlier Friday, Azerbaijan said it was delivering food and other humanitarian aid to Nagorno-Karabakh, which has been cut off from supplies since late last year

because of Azerbaijan's blockade of the Lachin Corridor, the region's only link to Armenia.

The ordeal for Nagorno-Karabakh's 120,000 people worsened this week, as thousands fled the recent fighting without being able to take food with them. Improving the supply of food and other basic needs will be a key issue in building stability in the region,

which is within Azerbaijan but which has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces since 1994.

Pashinyan on Friday said at a government meeting that there was no immediate need for the region's ethnic Armenians to leave their homes, but said Armenia is prepared to receive as many as 40,000 evacuees if needed.

Anxiety is high among the region's people.

"The majority of the population wants to be evacuated to Armenia. We cannot live with Azerbaijan," 21-year-old Hayk Harutunyan said in Stepanakert, the regional capital.

"During the last 30 years thousands of Armenians were killed, our brothers and sisters," he told The Associated Press by telephone, referring to decades of conflict over the region.

"Azerbaijan's goal is the annihilation of the Armenian nation; how can we live with those who want to kill us?"

Harutunyan said city is full of refugees who fled areas that came under control of Azerbaijani forces this week. □

Associated Press

Brazil's top court opens vote on decriminalizing abortion up to 12th week of pregnancy

By MAURICIO SAVARESE

Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Brazil's top court opened a session Friday that will decide whether abortion up to the 12th week of pregnancy will be decriminalized nationwide.

The South American nation currently allows abortions only in cases of rape, an evident risk to the mother's health or if the fetus has no functioning brain.

The Supreme Court's Chief Justice Rosa Weber put the issue forward in an online session Friday and cast her vote in favor of the action. She will retire in October af-

ter she turns 75, the age limit for members of the court.



Supreme Court President Rosa Weber presides over a session to decide on whether to overturn or maintain a ruling on the legality of boundaries for vast Indigenous lands in Brasilia, Brazil, Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023.

Associated Press

Ten more justices are yet to vote, but there is no set date for when the hearing will continue.

Weber said in her decision that Brazil's standing on abortions does not consider "equal protection of women's fundamental rights by giving absolute prevalence of the guardianship of the potential life" the fetus.

"Criminalizing the conduct of voluntarily interrupting the pregnancy, without restrictions," Weber wrote, "hits the core of women's rights to freedom, self-determination, intimacy, reproductive liberty and their dignity." □

In 2018, a health ministry official said the government estimated that were about 1 million abortions annually outside the allowed conditions, with the unsafe procedures causing more than 250,000 hospitalizations and 200 deaths.

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva said in April last year during the campaign trail that anyone should be allowed to have an abortion, but within days he backtracked.

He then said he opposes abortion although he believes women should be allowed the choice as a matter of public health. □

Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!

(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building “Cocolishi”, is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called “Willem III Toren”. Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower.

The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of un-



wanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era).

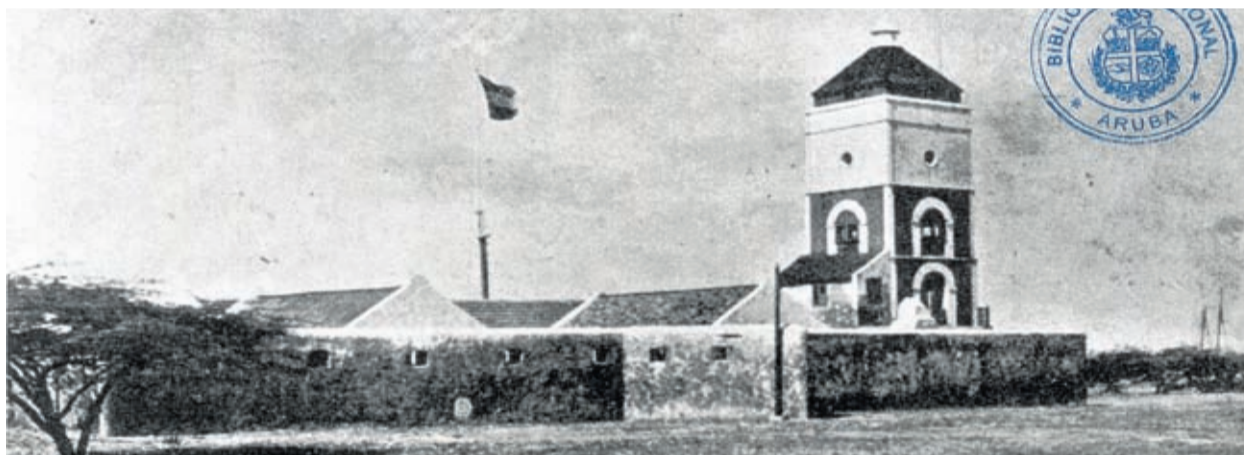
Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government cen-

ter points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is.

Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm. □

Source: *The Old Fort of Aruba* by Jan Hartog.



The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The **Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins** is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve



out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiri-

bana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short lifespan: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant.

Sources: *Etnia Nativa & goldminer-anch.com.*

2,000,000 SUMMER POINT GIVEAWAY – 20 WINNERS DAILY

SUPER
B I N G O
SATURDAY!

Super 4-Card BINGO
 starting at 1pm!
 \$7 for 4-Card BINGO | 8 Games to Play
\$1,500 in Cash Prizes
SPECIAL PROGRESSIVE GAME
 Jackpot within 50 Calls | 51 Calls or more \$111
 Additional \$500 Cash Prize in our
 Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you
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How it all began

It was 1938 when Mr. Eric Ponson started his journey at General Store. Ponson did not hesitate and decided to buy General Store. Buying a store and thus going from employee to owner of a business with a debt of 11.000 guilders was not an easy task.

As the saying goes: "Behind every successful man, is a strong

woman". In the case of Ponson, this was no different. As General Store progressed and slowly became successful, Mrs. Irene Ponson, came in to assist her husband. Irene Ponson is a visionary, she knew exactly where and how to invest and within a short amount of time in 1970, General Store moved to a better location at the Steenweg. This allowed for a lot more merchandise, products and employees. Supply and demand was as such, that General Store became the number 1 electrical business. Business kept going so well that the location at the Steenweg became too small and was moved later to Dakota Shopping Paradise and later to Pedro Gallego Straat. With this move, an expansion was decided upon and an electronics

store in Savaneta was opened. General Store still being very successful was ready for more growth.

Ricky, Kenneth, Corine and Frans are the fruits of this marriage. Kenneth and Frans however, decided to further develop their father's legacy and continued with their mother's dream to expand the business. An expansion not in square feet only, but in merchandise as well. A great opportunity presented itself when the Ponson family was able to buy a piece of property across from the airport. In 2007 the Ponson family moved into their brand new and huge building

After a successful opening and expansion, Kenneth and Frans who inherited their mother's vision, decided that General Store was ready for yet another expansion. With the support of Mr. Tom Barfell and management of Do it Best in the States, the construction of Do it Center commenced.

Fast forward to today. A Do it Center in Aruba, with more than 50.000 top of the line items for interior as well exterior use, building materials, STO products and a top of the line grocery store. Perseverance, responsibility, vision and the courage to invest have made Ponson's General Store as successful as it is today.

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Located in Shaba, Noord. This is the last sibling of the Do It Center family. Here you will be able to find anything you are looking for. The building is divided into several departments from home to hardware to groceries. Everything under one roof.

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Do it Center Shaba is open from Monday to Saturday from 8AM to 8PM and on Sunday's from 9AM to 6PM.

For more information go to www.doit.aw ☐



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Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal visitors at Casa Del Mar Beach Resort

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. This lovely couple was honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years

consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba Mr. Keith & Mrs. Ann Guerra from New York, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with memorable gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their best-loved vacation destination, and as their home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:



"Our children Kylan & Korina love it here"
Aruba's warm & friendly people
Aruba's safety
Aruba's cleanliness
Aruba's warm consistent weather all year round

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send

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poses without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received a lovely message from **Carlos Roberto Montenegro**

who is visiting us from S Paulo, Brazil.

He wrote to us saying: "**Aruba To Me is the best place to rest and forget problems from home.**"

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

Episode 55 Native succulents flora of Aruba



The Aruban nature has been devastated of its lush vegetation since the arrival of the colonial era. However its arid landscape is home to an extraordinarily diverse range of native vegetation or flora. Native vegetation refers to any naturally occurring local plant species which are indigenous to the island. Our today's episode will be all about succulents since our native succulents belongs to a very important segment of our ecological, social and cultural system.

Aruba's flora provides the unique landscapes of the region, providing habitat for an orange of native animals, create wildlife corridors, provide protection from wind and water erosion by holding the soil together after a rain shower and reduces the greenhouse effect.

Our island vegetation shapes local culture and national identity, and so in order to protect it we want and hope to allow future generations to enjoy their unique environment. The thorny brushes, trees and cacti are abundant, though not in large numbers of species. The cacti grows in the wild. Their seeds are dispersed by the wind and fauna, specially birds and bats that feast on their delicious fruits.

There are three types of candelabra or organ pipe cacti species that dominate the landscape of the island. *Stenocereus griseus*, *Cereus repandus* and *Pilosocereus lanuginosus*.

Stenocereus griseus grows straight up and branches out close to the ground; its thorns make up neat rows of rosettes.

Cereus repandus, known locally as Breba, is the largest of the three cacti species

and looks more like a tree as it branches out further from the ground; its thorns form dense rows that stick out in all directions.

Pilosocereus lanuginosus, known locally as Cadushi di Plushi, has long white hairy spines and yellow prickles on the top of its branches.

The cacti have a very important ecological role: their fruits and flowers, which bloom only at night, provide critical food resources for a variety of the islands' bats, birds and reptiles.

There are also two varieties of melon cactus four *Opuntia*'s or tuna and one *Acanthocereus* what Arubans calls Cushicuri or Cadushi di Colebra. Cadushi di Colebra means Snake Cactus. There is also a cactus type that has leaves known as *Pereskia guamacho* which locals call *Asufro phosphorus*.

Furthermore there are about eight types of *Agave* also a few *Bromeliads* and a great variety of *xenophiles*.

The cactus tree has been used to make fences in order to separate land plots. They are also eaten as a vegetable in soups or stew. Their delicious fruit are enjoyed by man and animals. Its dead wood was recycled into essentials such as kitchen utensils, building materials, for the making of furniture, mostly in the assemblies of chairs.

Aruba is scarce in resources, but locals always knew how to use everything in its typical survival mode.

The best known or most famous succulent



of the island is not really a local plant. This plant was introduced to the island in order to foment cultivation and create new sources of income for the islanders, and yes you guessed it, it is the Aloe. This super plant has been actually imported from Barbados where it was doing good and started to bring in some extra income. This plant was also imported from another island called Socotra, which is located between the Guardafui Channel and the Arabian Sea in the Indian Ocean. Well, the Aloe did really bring wealth for those who had invested in this wonder plant. The Aruba Aloe did become an important ingredient of many pharmaceutical skin products used as protection against the sun and chemotherapeutic burns. It can also be found in Laxatives, consumed to treat constipation and detoxification. □



Article by: Etnia Nativa
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Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

NOORD - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous "Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass.



The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!



tion, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the



sea glass. Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! ☐

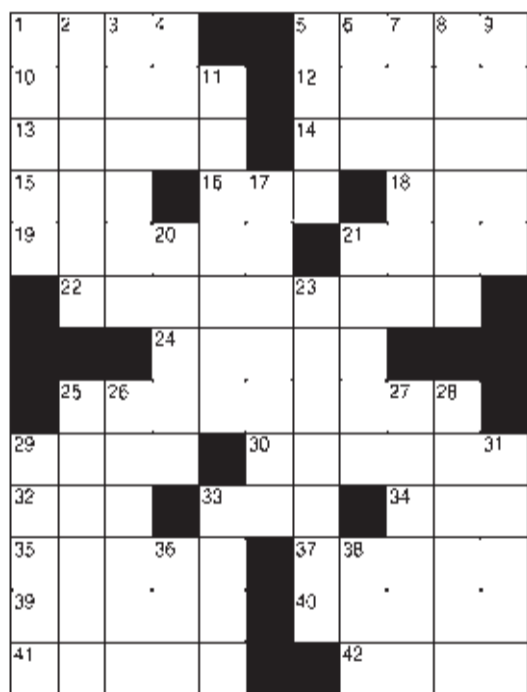
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 41 Grove
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 - 5 City on the Loire
 - 10 Shaq of the NBA
 - 12 Start
 - 13 Alarm
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 - 32 Nest item
 - 33 Low digit
 - 34 Butter unit
 - 35 Battery end
 - 37 Omit in pronunciation
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- DOWN**
- 1 Puccini opera
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 - 3 Short-age
 - 4 Musical ability
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 - 6 Low digit
 - 7 Handy
 - 8 Show
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 - 21 Saudi Arabia neighbor
 - 23 Age for a quinceañera
 - 25 "Siegfried" composer
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 - 27 Lusty drive
 - 28 Sluggish
 - 29 Body pump
 - 31 Garb
 - 33 Addition column
 - 36 Expected
 - 38 Auction unit



Yesterday's answer



9-23

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-23

CRYPTOQUOTE

RZRHS JRXO WBRXTW UJQWW

AN VR. OXJJQMC OHNV AGR

XDADVMAHRR. — RVQJS

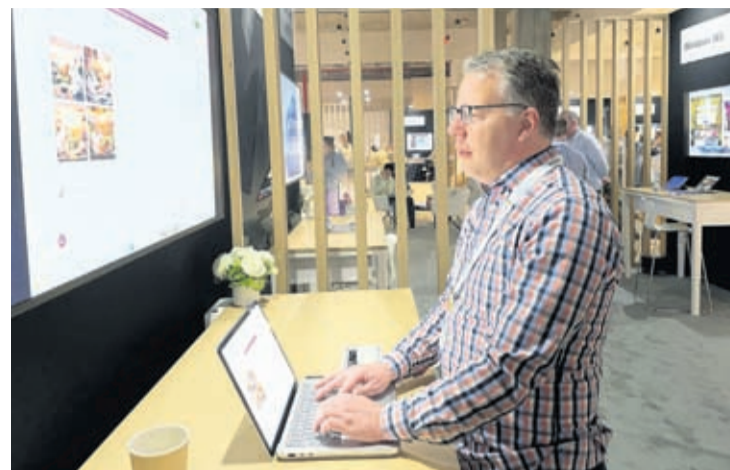
UHNMAR

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: FAITH IS THE BIRD THAT FEELS THE LIGHT WHEN THE DAWN IS STILL DARK. RABINDRANATH TAGORE

Tech companies try to take AI image generators mainstream

By MATT O'BRIEN AP
Technology Writer

Artificial intelligence tools that can conjure whimsical artwork or realistic-looking images from written commands started wowing the public last year. But most people don't actually use them at work or home. That could change as leading tech companies are competing to take text-to-image generators mainstream by integrating them into Adobe Photoshop, YouTube and other familiar tools. But first, they're trying to convince users and regulators that they've tamed some of the Wild West nature of early AI image-generators with stronger safeguards against copyright theft and troubling content. A year ago, a relatively small group of early adopters and hobbyists began playing with cutting-edge image generators such as Stable Diffusion, Midjourney and OpenAI's DALL-E.



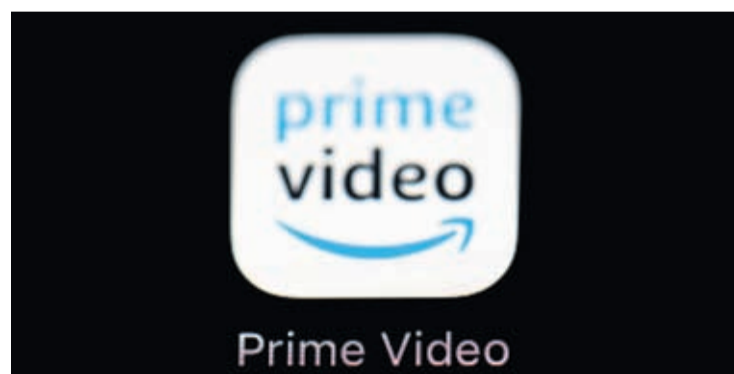
Jared Andersen, Director of Product Marketing for Bing Chat at Microsoft, shows a new artificial intelligence tool for generating images on Microsoft's Bing Chat Enterprise at a company event in New York, on Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023.

Associated Press

"The previous ones were an interesting curiosity," but businesses were wary, said David Truog, an analyst at market research group Forrester. A backlash followed, including copyright lawsuits from artists and photo stock company Getty, and calls for new laws to rein in generative AI technology's misuse to create deceptive political ads or abusive

sexual imagery. Those problems aren't yet solved. But a proliferation of new image generators say they're business-ready this time. "Alexa, create an image of cherry blossoms in the snow," is the kind of prompt that Amazon says U.S. customers will be able to speak later this year to generate a personalized display on their Fire TV screen. □

Amazon Prime Video will soon come with ads, or a \$2.99 monthly charge to dodge them



Amazon's Prime Video streaming app on an iPad is seen in Baltimore on March 19, 2018.

Associated Press

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN
AP Business Writer

Amazon Prime Video will include advertising during shows and movies starting early next year, joining other streaming services that have added different tiers of subscriptions.

Members of Amazon Prime can pay \$2.99 per month in the U.S. to keep their service ad-free, the company said Friday.

Streaming services are in a heated tug-of-war over viewers and users are growing more adept at jumping in and out of those services, often depending on price. The platforms risk losing customers with price hikes, but they could lose them if they don't generate new content that wins over users. □

The fall equinox is here. What does that mean?

By MADDIE BURAKOFF
AP Science Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Fall is in the air officially. The equinox arrives on Saturday, marking the start of the fall season for the Northern Hemisphere. But what does that actually mean? Here's what to know about how we split up the year using the Earth's orbit.

WHAT IS THE EQUINOX?
 As the Earth travels around the sun, it does so at an angle. For most of the year, the Earth's axis is tilted either toward or away from the sun. That means the sun's warmth and light fall unequally on the northern and southern halves of the planet.

During the equinox, the Earth's axis and its orbit line up so that both hemispheres get an equal amount of sunlight. The word equinox comes from two Latin words meaning equal and night. That's because on the equinox, day and night last almost the same amount of time though one may get a few extra minutes, depending on where you are on the planet. The Northern Hemisphere's spring or vernal equinox can land between March 19 and 21, depending on the year. Its fall or autumnal equinox can land between Sept. 21 and 24.

WHAT IS THE SOLSTICE?
 The solstices mark the times during the year when the Earth is seeing its strongest tilt toward or away from the sun. This means the hemispheres are getting very different amounts of sunlight and days and nights are at their most unequal. During the Northern Hemisphere's summer solstice, the upper half of the earth is tilted in toward the sun, creating the longest day and shortest night of the year. This solstice falls between June 20 and 22. Meanwhile, at the winter solstice, the Northern Hemisphere is leaning away from the sun leading to the shortest day and longest night of the year. The winter solstice falls between December 20 and 23.



The sun sets beyond the downtown skyline of Kansas City, Mo., as the autumnal equinox marks the first day of fall Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013.

Associated Press

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN METEOROLOGICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SEASONS?
 These are just two different ways to carve up the year. Meteorological seasons are defined by the weather. They break down the year into three-month seasons

based on annual temperature cycles. By that calendar, spring starts on March 1, summer on June 1, fall on Sept. 1 and winter on Dec. 1. Astronomical seasons depend on how the Earth moves around the sun. Equinoxes, when the sun lands equally on both hemispheres, mark the start of spring and autumn. Solstices, when the Earth sees its strongest tilt toward or away from the sun, kick off summer and winter. □



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Aces, Liberty, Sun and Wings set for WNBA semifinal playoff clashes

By **DOUG FEINBERG**
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A'ja Wilson and the Las Vegas Aces cruised through the opening round of the playoffs and now stand six wins away from becoming the WNBA's first repeat champion in over two decades. Next up for the defending champions are the Dallas Wings a team that handed the Aces one of their few losses during the regular season. New York faces Connecticut in the other semifinal matchup. Both best-of-five series begin Sunday. Las Vegas, which is looking to be the first team to repeat as champs since Los Angeles in 2001-02, had no trouble sweeping Chicago. The Aces didn't trail in winning both games. Now Wilson and her teammates will have to deal with the formidable front line of the Wings, which features 6-foot-7 Teaira McCowan, 6-4 Satou Sabally and 6-2 Natasha Howard.

"They are going to clog the paint up. That's their bread and butter. It's rare you see all five crash (for rebounds)," Wilson said. "When it comes to Dallas, they are all crashing. ... The biggest thing is playing



Connecticut Sun forward DeWanna Bonner (24) celebrates toward guard Tyasha Harris (52) after Harris made a three-point basket during the second half of Game 3 of a WNBA first-round basketball playoff series against the Minnesota Lynx, Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023, in Minneapolis.
Associated Press

to our strengths. It's really clogged because they are a big team. For us, we got to play to our strengths and figure that out."

In the lone victory this season over Las Vegas, the Wings outrebounded the Aces by 10.

Rebounding also will be key in the New York-Connecticut series. The Liberty swept the four games this season and have a huge advan-

tage on the inside with Breanna Stewart and former Sun star Jonquel Jones. Connecticut is without star center Brionna Jones, who tore her Achilles' tendon in June. "It's no secret our size is an issue. So our discipline has to be great, and our attention to detail," Connecticut coach Stephanie White said. "Offensively, we have to make them work and find ways against their

length, speed and athleticism to get good looks."

Jonquel Jones has been playing great in the last few months, and New York went 14-0 when she's had a double-double this season. She was instrumental in the team's sweep of Washington in the opening series. The Liberty will need to find a way to slow down Connecticut's dynamic duo of Alyssa Thomas and De-

Wanna Bonner.

"They're two players who aren't afraid of moments or to make big plays," White said. "They've just continued to rise to the challenge."

Thomas has been a huge reason that the Sun have advanced at least this far the past five seasons.

"The common denominator in all of them is Alyssa Thomas," Lynx coach Cheryl Reeve said. "I don't know of a player with a greater will to win. That's a player who just puts her team on her back."

Here are other tidbits for the semifinals:

CHAMPIONSHIP PEDIGREE: Of the four teams left, only Las Vegas has won a title in its current city. The Wings won three championships when the franchise was in Detroit (2003, 2006, 2008). New York and Connecticut have reached the WNBA Finals a combined eight times and never won.

MVP RACE: The three leading candidates for the league's MVP award Wilson, Stewart and Thomas have gotten their teams this far. The WNBA will announce who wins its top individual award on Tuesday before Game 2. □

Anthony Nesty to become the first Black US head swimming coach at the Olympics

By **PAUL NEWBERRY**
AP National Writer

Anthony Nesty made more history Thursday when he was picked to lead the U.S. men's swimming team in Paris, where he will become the first Black head coach for the powerhouse American squad at the Olympics.

Nesty's selection was announced by USA Swimming, which also appointed Todd DeSorbo to head the women's squad next summer.

Nesty, the University of Florida coach, works with top American swimmers such as Katie Ledecky, Caeleb Dressel and Bobby Finke.

"I'm excited to be the men's head Olympic coach in Paris," Nesty said in a statement released by USA Swimming. "Todd and I look forward to coaching



Coach Anthony Nesty watches as swimmers warm up at the U.S. nationals swimming meet in Indianapolis, June 27, 2023.
Associated Press

these athletes to the best of their abilities in Paris next summer."

Competing for Suriname, Nesty was the first Black male swimmer to win an Olympic gold medal when he upset Matt Biondi at the 1988 Seoul Games. In 2022, Nesty became the first Black coach to lead a U.S. team at the world championships.

Nesty and DeSorbo, who coaches at the University of Virginia, will be reprising their roles from the Budapest worlds, where Nesty led the men's team and DeSorbo headed the women's group.

"I am thrilled coaches De-

Sorbo and Nesty will be joining us in Paris and am looking forward to the experience and leadership they will bring to the games," said Lindsay Mintenko, managing director of the U.S. national team.

Nesty and DeSorbo served as assistant coaches with the U.S. team at the Tokyo Olympics, where the Americans won a total of 30 medals. Nesty's swimmers included Finke, who captured a pair of golds, and Kieran Smith, who earned a bronze.

Since then, Dressel and Ledecky have joined his Gainesville, Florida-based pro training group. □

Coach Prime dominates the college football world. What might come next?

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP Sports Columnist

Deion Sanders hobbles to get around these days, but his ability to command an audience is even more potent than it was during his speedier playing days.

Just three games into his first head coaching job in college football's top division, the guy who went from Prime Time to Coach Prime has been the non-stop talk of the sporting world.

Given how quickly the 56-year-old Sanders moves metaphorically speaking, as he struggles with blood-clot issues in his legs and feet it's certainly not too soon to ponder where this phenomenon might lead.

Can the Colorado Buffaloes keep winning even with a brutal schedule ahead of them? If they do, will a more prominent school come calling for Coach Prime in the not-too-distant future? Has Sanders' nearly complete overhaul of a down-trodden team through the transfer portal established a new template for building a program? Should every coach start wearing sunglasses?

The Buffaloes, who won a single game in 2022 and have just one winning season in the past 17 years, are off to a captivating 3-0 start that includes a road victory over a TCU team that played in the most recent national championship game and an improbable double-overtime triumph over rival Colorado State. But before we start penciling in No. 19 Colorado for the College Football Playoff, it's worth taking a look at their upcoming schedule.

Six of their last nine regular-season games are against teams currently ranked in The Associated Press Top 25.

Yikes.

The Pac-12 gauntlet begins Saturday with a road game at No. 10 Oregon, followed by a home contest the following weekend against fifth-ranked Southern Cal.



Colorado head coach Deion Sanders walks the perimeter of the field as players warm up before an NCAA college football game against Colorado State, Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023, in Boulder, Colo.

Associated Press

Down the road are No. 22 UCLA, No. 14 Oregon State, No. 21 Washington State and No. 11 Utah.

Making these games all the more daunting: Colorado will be without its two-way star, Travis Hunter, for several weeks after he took a brutal cheap shot from Colorado State.

If the Buffaloes start losing, the nation's attention will surely turn to more conventional storylines such as Georgia's quest for a third straight national title.

Then again, never bet against Coach Prime. If his team can pull off another upset or two they're a whopping 21-point underdog against Oregon, according to FanDuel Sportsbook his star will shine brighter than it already is, if that's even possible.

"We have not played a complete game," Sanders said. "When the offense is playing well, the defense is hot garbage.

If the defense is playing well, the offense is horrible. The special teams aren't special. We've got to put it all together to be able to defeat a team like Oregon."

But let's say the Buffaloes win at least eight or nine games and earn a prominent bowl bid ahead of their move next season to the Big 12. That would be a remarkable accomplishment, one that might tempt another school or maybe even an NFL team to send out feelers to Coach Prime. He would surely listen.

"I'm aggressive by nature," Sanders said, responding to an unrelated question but giving a clear glimpse into his psyche on most any issue. "I'm a go-getter, I'm a doer, I'm an attacker. I don't sit back and wait on nothing to happen. I'm gonna go make it happen."

Michigan State, which is in the process of firing Mel Tucker, might look for a splashy hire to rejuvenate a program that faces stiff competition in the ever-expanding Big Ten. Oklahoma is getting ready to move to the mighty Southeastern Conference and could decide that Brent Venables isn't the right guy to lead that transition. And let's not forget Texas A&M, which already plays in the SEC and hasn't come close

to meeting expectations under Jimbo Fisher.

All of those schools have far more storied programs than Colorado, but that could be a double-edged sword for any team that went after Sanders as its next coach.

With nothing to lose, Colorado has largely ceded the identity of its athletic program to the Coach Prime brand. While you can't really blame the suits in Boulder for allowing this to happen, a more prominent program might be reluctant to let one man's dynamic personality overshadow the entire athletic department.

Then again, Alabama's Nick Saban and Georgia's Kirby Smart, just to name two, certainly wield that kind of influence on their campuses.

The more pertinent question might be: Would any big-time school where the power base is largely made up of white men be willing to allow a Black coach to be such an overwhelming force?

Sanders has caught some well-deserved grief for the ruthless way he overhauled

the Colorado roster, leaving just nine scholarship players returning to the team from a year ago.

Yet no one worked the transfer portal with greater effectiveness than Coach Prime, who lured in skilled players from all over the country.

It's likely that many schools will try to mimic his methods going forward, but it's doubtful anyone can match the sheer force of his personality when it comes to persuading someone they should come play for him.

Even though he last suited up in the NFL nearly two decades ago, Sanders can relate better than most coaches to today's generation. For instance, having rapper Lil Wayne lead the team onto the field before a game. Or getting the Rock to watch from the sidelines. Or sending his team out in different uniform combinations for every game.

"Shoot, you all want options," Sanders told reporters at his weekly news conference. "That's why you're working, right? So you can have options to go buy what you wanna buy, get what you wanna get, do what you wanna do. Just giving the kids those types of options is phenomenal for those young men."

Sanders is certainly willing to toot his own horn. He began his latest press briefing by reciting some of the impressive numbers his team has wracked up already, from stellar television ratings to selling out of every home game for the first time in school history.

"It's incredible," Sanders said.

"Our kids are getting eyeballs, they're getting viewers, they're getting scouts out every day to watch what they're gifted to do." Rest assured, no one is getting more eyeballs than Coach Prime.

Now, let's see where it leads. □

Weekly SPECIALS



<p>WAS \$13.42</p> <p>\$6.79</p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>Peppers Yellow</p>	<p>WAS \$9.99</p> <p>\$7.99</p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>Pork Strips Shoarma</p>	<p>WAS \$12.28</p> <p>\$6.79</p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>Peppers Red</p>	<p>WAS \$14.28</p> <p>\$12.57</p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>BBQ/ Grill Shaslick (Beef/Pork/Chicken)</p>
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<p>WAS \$7.08</p> <p>\$5.14</p> <p>Per BAG</p>  <p>Carrots Cello 5lb</p>	<p>WAS \$8.85</p> <p>\$7.14</p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>Mexican Meatballs (Beef)</p>	<p>WAS \$5.11</p> <p>\$3.97</p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>Squash Chayote</p>	<p>WAS \$8.17</p> <p>\$4.74</p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>Plums</p>	<p>WAS \$10.26</p> <p>\$7.99</p> <p>Per Each</p>  <p>Grapes Red Seedless 2lb</p>
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DIARY/FROZEN

<p>WAS \$7.99</p> <p>\$6.45</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Katharos Griekse Yoghurt Naturel 1000gr</p>	<p>WAS \$6.45</p> <p>\$4.85</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>De Vegetarische Slager Petit Pate 5st</p>
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HBC/GM

<p>WAS \$3.65</p> <p>\$3.08</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>EQ Men 2 Blade 10ct</p>	<p>WAS \$12.79</p> <p>\$11.42</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Gain Island Fresh 4/40 Loads</p>
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DELI/BAKERY

<p>WAS \$2.85</p> <p>\$2.28</p> <p>100 GR</p>  <p>Yorkham</p>	<p>WAS \$1.63</p> <p>\$1.31</p> <p>100 GR</p>  <p>Edam Loaf Cheese 40-</p>
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DRY FOOD

<p>WAS \$4.17</p> <p>\$3.42</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Chocomel Vol 1L</p>	<p>WAS \$12.22</p> <p>\$9.71</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Kellogg's Corn Flakes Cereal 24oz</p>	<p>WAS \$7.48</p> <p>\$5.71</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Snackline Popcorn Sweet 250g</p>	<p>WAS \$1.99</p> <p>\$1.71</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>EE Stuffing Mix Chicken 6oz</p>	<p>WAS \$8.85</p> <p>\$7.14</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Badia Curry Powder 16oz</p>
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